

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

How Early Action Compacts work:

- Early Action Compacts give certain local areas the flexibility to develop their own approach to meeting the 8-hour ozone standard, provided the communities control emissions from local sources earlier than the Clean Air Act would otherwise require.
- Only areas that are already meeting the national 1-hour ozone standard are eligible for this innovative program because EPA wants to ensure that the communities participating have a proven record of environmental progress.
- The Early Action Compact requires areas to meet several milestones to be eligible for a series of 3 deferrals of the effective date of the 8-hour ozone designation. Once an area receives a deferral, it must meet all of their subsequent clean air plan milestones to qualify for a continuation of the deferral.
- In order to qualify for the initial deferral, States, Tribes or local areas must have submitted to EPA a complete compact agreement by December 31, 2002.
- In order to qualify for the second deferral, States, Tribes or local areas must have submitted to EPA a State Implementation Plan by December 31, 2004.
- In order to qualify for the third and final deferral, States, Tribes or local areas must submit to EPA an assessment of their progress toward attainment by June 30, 2006, and must demonstrate attainment with the 8-hour ozone standard by December 31, 2007.
- Early Action Compacts were signed by representatives of the local communities, State and Tribal air quality officials, and EPA Regional Administrators.